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NEWS

New employee spotlight - Matthew Shuman

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

September 16, 2023 . 12:05 PM — 2 min read

Town Engineer Matt Shuman at a desk with plans

Winchester has hired a new Town Engineer, Somerville resident Matthew Shuman. To learn more about him we asked him some question

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What do you do? What are the job requirements for the position?

I am involved in reviewing the engineering aspects of development plans, such as utilities and stormwater management. I work with the other departments on capital project planning and construction management. I direct the town's stormwater management program and serve as floodplain manager.

What is your background?

I have Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees from Cornell University.

Where did you work before coming to Winchester?

I was actually the Assistant Town Engineer in Winchester from 2011 to 2014. I left to become Town Engineer in Watertown and now I'm back. I also have experience in two other communities and began my career working for an engineering consulting firm.

What area(s) do you specialize in or have greater interest in?

My background is in stormwater management but I also have an interest in transportation and Complete Streets. [Ed note: Complete Streets is a method of planning, designing, and building streets that are safe for pedestrians, bikers, transit and motor vehicles.]

How did you come to be doing what you are doing?

I worked in engineering consulting for a few years after graduating. I then moved over to the public sector.

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What are some of the bigger challenges you see in Winchester?

Flooding is always an issue in Winchester. The Town has been forward-thinking and invested in flood control on the Aberjona for many years, but mother nature always has a larger storm. Rainfall patterns are changing. Street flooding in many areas remains a concern.

There is a lot of cut-through traffic in Town, but there is also increased desire for better walking and biking facilities. We've just completed a Town-wide Transportation Plan and will be looking to implement it. Finding a balance between competing needs and interests is a challenge in every community.

What are some of the unique things you've noticed about our community?

There is a real sense of community in Winchester and the Town retains many small-town characteristics despite being so close to Boston.

What are some of your favorite things about Winchester so far?

The Town Center is beautiful. As an engineer, there is a nice variety of projects to work on. The Town staff work well together and it really feels like a team.

What hobbies do you pursue outside of work?

I enjoy walking, biking and gardening.

To learn more by contacting the Engineering Department visit: https://www.winchester.us/Directory.aspx?DID=10

Tara Hughes is the President of Winchester News Group and a Precinct 1 Town Meeting Member.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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